AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

[illegible]

WHOLE NO. [illegible] WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21. NO. 47.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Hoover's Executive Order on Prevailing Wage Rate

[illegible] that contracts [illegible] provision for [illegible] low-wage [illegible] by Congress last [illegible] pretended to [illegible] Labor Dept. and [illegible] that they [illegible] paid them less. [illegible]

[illegible] An Act Relating to [illegible] Public Buildings [illegible] 1931, it is [illegible] the following stipulations: [illegible]

[illegible] wages shall [illegible] a week and in [illegible] to such [illegible] reduction or rebate [illegible]

[illegible] the purpose of said act [illegible] mechanic on the [illegible] as employed as a [illegible] regardless of any [illegible] a contractor or any subcontractor [illegible]

[illegible] the contractor and [illegible] contractor or subcontractor [illegible] laborers or mechanics, of [illegible] on said buildings [illegible] are to be open to [illegible] the latter may elect [illegible] the proper and [illegible] statement of the [illegible] shall be posted by the contractor [illegible] at the site of the work [illegible] persons engaged on the work.

[illegible] that if it should be found [illegible] mechanic employed by the [illegible] covered by this contract [illegible] less than the prevailing [illegible] by written notice to the [illegible] the work, or such part of [illegible] said prevailing wages. [illegible] the Government may take [illegible] by contract or otherwise, [illegible] shall be liable to the Government [illegible] thereby.

[illegible] for which bids are hereafter [illegible]

Judicial Hairsplitting on Workmen's Compensation

The Supreme Court of the United States continues to indulge in judicial [illegible] in Federal workmen's compensation cases to the detriment of [illegible] injured workers.

The latest manifestation of this [illegible] policy is the Court's decision in [illegible] against the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company.

The Railroad Company is engaged in interstate commerce. At Maybrook, N. Y., the company maintains [illegible] and other plants for servicing [illegible] repairing locomotives used in interstate transportation.

[illegible] Bezue was employed as a general laborer in these plants. The [illegible] ordered him [illegible] the main driving wheels of a [illegible] put them upon a track and push [illegible] could be placed under a locomotive [illegible] was injured by the negligence of the foreman [illegible] from under the wheels.

Bezue sued the railroad company for damages in the Courts of the State of New York under the Federal Employers' Liability Act. Officials of the company contended [illegible] the locomotive while it was [illegible] was not an instrument of interstate commerce, and that [illegible] workers employed on the repairs did not come under the Federal law.

The Supreme Court of the State of New York awarded damages to Bezue. The Court held that the Maybrook terminal facilities of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company in which Bezue worked constitute a part of the railroad's system necessary to the conduct of interstate commerce, and declared that although Bezue was occasionally put on work not [illegible] interstate commerce, nevertheless the nature and purpose of the [illegible] characterization of all his work, of whatever nature, as in interstate commerce.

The officials of the railroad company carried the case to the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals of New York, which affirmed the decision of the State Supreme Court. The railroad company thereupon took the case to the United States Supreme Court, which denied the legality of Bezue's claim.

The Supreme Court admitted that terminal facilities, repair shops, and their employes, are necessary in the conduct of interstate commerce, but declared that "the mere fact of employment does not bring such employes within the Federal Employers' Liability Act." The Court sustained its position with the declaration that Bezue's claim must be determined solely by whether the locomotive in question was, at the time of the accident, in use in interstate transportation or had been taken out of it."

[illegible] in New York State decided that the locomotive on which [illegible] at the time of his accident was in interstate transportation [illegible] in the repair shop and that Bezue's work was incidental to interstate transportation. The U. S. Supreme Court decided, however, that the locomotive was not engaged in interstate commerce while in the repair shop, that Bezue's work was consequently not interstate commerce [illegible] and that therefore his claim for damages against the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company under the Federal Employers' Liability Act was invalid.

It is this sort of judicial hairsplitting that injured workers have to contend with in the Federal courts.

The United States Supreme Court should throw some of its out-of-date [illegible] in labor cases in the scrap heap and develop a system of principles [illegible] in accord with social justice.

$375,000,000 Jobless Relief Bill Reported to U. S. Senate

Washington, Jan. 30.—The Senate Committee on Manufactures made a favorable report to the Senate on the La Follette-Costigan bill for Federal cooperation in unemployment relief.

The measure authorizes an appropriation of $375,000,000, with $125,000,000 immediately available for relief work up to June 30 of the present year. The remaining $250,000,000 is reserved for the year ending June 30, 1933.

The bill sets up a Federal Emergency Relief Board, including the Chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, and charges the Children's Bureau with the administration of the act.

Senator La Follette, chairman of the Committee on Manufactures, pointed out that 40 per cent of the total was to be allocated to the States on a population basis, and the remainder was to be placed in a reserve fund for allocation on the basis of need and to care for the administration of the act.

"In view of the difficulties," the Committee report said, "experienced by certain States in coping with the problem of feeding and housing migratory workers and their families, who are unable to establish legal residence within any one State, the Federal board is given full power to deal with this problem out of the reserve fund, either through special grants to the States or through such other means and agencies as it may find feasible."

Population Allotment, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932

The Committee report gives the following maximum amounts available to the States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1932, from that portion of the Federal funds, $50,000,000, to be distributed on the basis of population:

Alabama, $1,081,972.00; Arizona, $178,093.00; Arkansas, $758,242.50.

California, $2,321,259.00; Colorado, $423,504.00; Connecticut, $657,015.00.

Delaware, $97,466.50.

Florida, $600,308.00.

Georgia, $1,189,201.50.

Idaho, $181,960.50; Illinois, $3,119,947.50; Indiana, $1,324,127.50; Iowa, $1,010,298.50.

Kansas, $769,084.50; Kentucky, $1,069,027.50.

Louisiana, $859,279.00.

Maine, $326,942.50; Maryland, $667,082.50; Massachusetts, $1,737,541.00; Michigan, $1,979,882.50; Minnesota, $1,048,324.00; Mississippi, $821,756.00; Missouri, $1,483,940.50; Montana, $219,211.00.

Nebraska, $563,408.00; Nevada, $37,231.00; New Hampshire, $190,244.50; New Jersey, $1,652,381.50; New Mexico, $173,081.50; New York, $5,146,886.00; North Carolina, $1,296,231.50; North Dakota, $278,377.50.

Ohio, $2,717,637.00; Oklahoma, $979,669.50; Oregon, $389,974.50.

Pennsylvania, $3,937,972.50.

Rhode Island, $281,067.00.

South Carolina, $710,929.50; South Dakota, $283,285.50.

Tennessee, $1,069,832.00; Texas, $2,381,553.00.

Utah, $207,643.50.

Vermont, $147,034.00; Virginia, $930,225.00.

Washington, $639,226.00; West Virginia, $707,020.50; Wisconsin, $1,201,672.00; Wyoming, $92,227.00.

Population Allotment, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1933

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, $100,000,000 will be distributed to the States on the basis of population. The maximum amounts for each State follow:

Alabama, $2,163,944; Arizona, $356,186; Arkansas, $1,516,485.

California, $4,642,518; Colorado, $847,008; Connecticut, $1,314,030.

Delaware, $194,933.

Florida, $1,200,616.

Georgia, $2,378,403.

Idaho, $363,921; Illinois, $6,239,895; Indiana, $2,648,255; Iowa, $2,020,587.

Kansas, $1,538,169; Kentucky, $2,138,055.

Louisiana, $1,718,558.

Maine, $652,0 [redacted] Maryland, $1,334,165; Massachu [redacted] 5,082; Michigan, [illegible] [redacted] $2,096,648; Mississipp [redacted] 12; Missouri, $2,967,881; Mo [redacted] ,622.

Nebraska, $1 [redacted] Nevada, $74,462; New Ham [redacted] 0,489; New Jersey, $3,304,7 [redacted] Mexico, $346,163; New Yor [redacted] ,772; North Carolina, $2,59 [redacted] rth Dakota, $556,755.

Ohio, $5,435, [redacted] oma, $1,959,339; Oregon, $ [redacted]

Pennsylvania [redacted] 5.

Rhode Island [redacted]

South Caroli [redacted] ,859; South Dakota, $566,7 [redacted]

Tennessee, [redacted] Texas, $4,763,106.

Utah, $415, [redacted]

Vermont, $2 [redacted] Virginia, $1,860,446.

Washington, [redacted] West Virginia, $1,414,04 [redacted] sin, $2,403,344; Wyoming, [redacted]

Senators La [redacted] and Costigan expect the Se [redacted] give immediate considera [redacted] e relief bill, and it is expect [redacted] the House of Representatives [redacted] schedule the measure for pr [redacted] n.

Government Fund for Unemployment Relief Necessary, Green Declares

$375,000,000 JOBLESS RELIEF PROBE BEGUN

House Labor Subcommittee Begins Consideration of La Follette-Costigan Plan of Federal Contribution for Relief Work.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The House Labor Committee instructed a subcommittee to begin consideration of the La Follette-Costigan bill to appropriate $375,000,000 for unemployment relief work. The bill has been approved by the Senate Committee on Manufactures.

Representative Connery, chairman of the House Labor Committee, named Representative Jacobsen of Iowa to head the subcommittee to hold hearings.

A bill introduced by Representative Lewis of Maryland, identical to the one approved by the Senate Manufactures Committee, is before the House Labor Committee, which also has under consideration a bill by Representative Huddleston for a $100,000,000 relief appropriation.

FEDERAL PREVAILING WAGE RATE LEGISLATION

Chairman Connery of House Labor Committee Begins Draft of New Measure to Limit Further Violation by Contractors.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Representative Connery, chairman of the House Labor Committee, headed a subcommittee to draft legislation tightening the Federal prevailing wage rate law.

The law was passed by the last Congress. It prescribed that contractors for constructing Federal public buildings should pay their employes the wage rate prevailing in the community where the buildings are constructed, and made the Secretary of Labor the final arbiter in complaints.

Confronted with a large number of violations of the law, the House Committee on Labor began hearings on the matter shortly after the present Congress convened. The testimony by representatives of Organized Labor relative to violations was so voluminous and convincing that the Committee decided the law should be amended to prevent contractors from continuing to flaunt the expressed will of Congress.

Chairman Connery's subcommittee will prepare the new measure.

30-HOUR WEEK URGED IN SOFT COAL MINES

United Mine Workers Convention Also Indorses Davis Bill for Government Board to Regulate the Industry.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 30.—The biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America in session here adopted the recommendation of the international officers of the union in favor of the six-hour day and five-day week, with permanent regulation of the bituminous coal industry by a Federal government commission.

The report making the recommendation was signed by John L. Lewis, president; Philip Murray, vice-president, and Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer.

Wage Cutting

Bituminous coal mining was cited as the "horrible example" of the result of wage cutting, "cut-throat" competition, destruction of employe purchasing power, of company profits and capital assets.

"Even taking into consideration the ruthless wage cuts that have taken place in American industry in the last two years," the report said, "bituminous coal, from the standpoint of [illegible] of low-wage rate, profitless operation, as well as diminished consumption and reduced working time, stands out as the most depressed of all American industries."

Endorses Davis Bill

The second proposal in the report, advocating Federal regulation of bituminous coal mining, endorsed the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania providing for a Federal coal commission.

Six-Hour Day

Leading up to advocacy of the six-hour day, the report declared that "during the past ten years the per man day production of bituminous coal miners has increased 20 per cent. This increased production has resulted in decreased earnings for coal miners and created a competitive situation that has eliminated all profits for the coal companies and in addition has thrown more than 200,000 coal miners out of employment.

"Here we have efficiency," declared the report, "the gains of which to the coal industry are represented by a big minus."

Profitable Prices

Asserting that "American industry can afford to pay a profitable price for its coal supply," the report analyzed the cost of coal to manufactured products. The census figures of coal consumed in 1927 by manufacturers were used as a basis to show that "coal costs, figured on the arbitrary price of $2 a ton as to the value of manufactured products only approximated one-half of one per cent."

FEDERAL-AID ROADS MUST BE CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT PRISON LABOR

House of Representatives Bars Government Contributions to States Using Convicts on Highway Work.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The House of Representatives, by a vote of 121 to 17, adopted Representative La Guardia's amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill effectively banning convict labor from the construction of roads whose cost is paid in part by the Federal Government.

The agricultural bill appropriated $100,000,000 to be distributed among the States for highway construction with the proviso that the States should contribute an equal amount.

The States of Alabama, Florida, New Jersey, and Virginia have hitherto accepted the Federal Government's contribution, and then used convicts to build the highways.

La Guardia's Amendment

Representative La Guardia proposed to stop the use of Federal funds to pay the cost of keeping convicts on road work by offering the following amendment to the current appropriation of $100,000,000 for cooperation with the States in road construction:

"Provided, That none of the money herein appropriated shall be paid to any State on account of any project on which convict labor shall be directly employed."

"This is an appropriation of Federal funds in aid of highways," Representative La Guardia said, "and the present increase in the appropriation is predicated on the theory that it will relieve unemployment.

Fallacy of Convicts on Road Work

"Imagine the appropriation of funds on the theory of relieving unemployment, and then using convict labor on such road construction. The very idea would be humorous if it were not so tragic.

"It is almost inconceivable, it is unbelievable, that convict labor should be used on roads built with Federal funds while honest labor is walking the streets unemployed."

Mr. La Guardia said that under present practices the amendment would affect only the States of Alabama, Florida, New Jersey, and Virginia. His proposal did not concern State highways constructed entirely from State funds. "If a State desires to employ convict labor on its own roads," he explained, "paid for entirely with State funds, and it can do so under its own laws, we cannot stop it. But where Federal funds are involved, then of course, my limitation would apply."

Convicts Displace Free Labor

"Every convict working on these roads," La Guardia concluded, "takes the place of [illegible] laborer or of an unemployed man who obeys the law, and wants to live and support a family honestly. Every convict used displaces an unemployed worker.

"We are now concerned with unemployment. Surely we cannot take a convict who has violated the law, who is in prison, and put him in competition with a law-abiding man supporting his family and educating his children. A convict at least gets shelter, food and clothing. An unemployed worker starves if he cannot earn money by being gainfully employed."

There were amendments opposing La Guardia's amendment, but at the end of the debate the House adopted with [illegible] Representatives voting [illegible] and [illegible]

Jobless Reach 8,300,000, Poverty in Millions of Homes—Community Chests and Other Forms of Private and City Relief Unable to Cope with Distress.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Over [illegible] million workers are jobless.

Poverty is stalking in millions of homes.

Community Chests and other forms of private relief are unable to provide even subsistence for the unemployed.

City relief is breaking down.

The Federal Government is the only agency that can meet the relief problem, and it should act with promptness and liberality.

These are the outstanding facts made by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement on the unprecedented winter unemployment crisis based on reports received from the organizations affiliated with the Federation.

Relief Agencies Breaking Down

"With city relief breaking down," President Green said, "with private charity totally unable to meet the needs of the unemployed, we are now face to face with an unprecedented unemployment crisis.

"Our reports from trade unions show that an usual [illegible] has been a sharp increase in the number out of work since December; the weighted figures are: 21.5 per cent out of work in December, 23.1 per cent at the first of January.

"Ever since October unemployment has been rising rapidly.

"Winter layoffs on farms have cost the jobs of about 1,200,000 wage earners, and some 1,100,000 more have been laid off in industry and salaried positions.

"The army of unemployed has risen to 8,300,000 (approximately) at the first of January.

Over $2,500,000,000 Relief Required

"January and February are traditionally peak months of unemployment. Relief needs will continue at unprecedented levels throughout 1932.

"With relief provisions totally inadequate for even the winter months, we must look ahead also to the needs of the year.

"Only thus can we prevent a [illegible] ful toll of human wreckage.

"A conservative estimate places the probable unemployment for 1932 between six and seven million on an average.

"It will cost between $3,500,000,000 and $5,700,000,000 to feed, clothe and house the unemployed even at bare subsistence levels.

Cities and Community Chests Fail

"Already we are hearing from bankrupt cities and towns reports of unprecedented suffering they cannot meet.

"Some are not even paying their school teachers.

"Community chests, after a valiant effort to collect funds from private sources, report their funds inadequate; the need is four times that of 1928, their funds only 25 per cent more.

"Isolated industrial sections outside the cities—coal fields, textile mill villages—have no resources outside their industry to cope with their problems.

"Even large cities are not meeting their relief needs.

"Thus the responsibility of caring for those out of work is thrown back on their relatives, friends and neighbors, who can least afford to give of their own meager incomes.

"This burden, added to wage cuts and part-time work, reduces our living standards to the point of poverty in millions of homes.

Government Relief Necessary

"Only one agency can meet the relief problem now that all other sources have been proved inadequate—the Federal Government. By taxation it can distribute the burden of this year where it can be borne with least injury to our citizenship.

"Our unemployment reports show 62 per cent out of work in building, 42 per cent in clothing and textiles and other manufacturers; 21 per cent in water transportation, and 51 per cent among musicians. Nineteen cities report an increase in unemployment since December, and part time work is running high with 19 per cent of those reporting short time work."

The trade union unemployment figures, referred to by President Green, follow:

[illegible]

*Preliminary
**Weighted

HOUSE REFUSES PERSONNEL CUT IN AGRICULTURE DEPT.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The House of Representatives defeated a motion introduced by Representative [illegible] to provide for the [illegible] per cent of the [illegible] in the agricultural appropriation bill. The House also defeated [illegible] proposal to [illegible] from the Federal service all married women whose husbands are on the Government pay roll and receive more than $2,600 a year.

Senate Judiciary Committee [redacted] ports Anti-Injunction Bill Prohibiting Judges [redacted] Imposing Involuntary Servitude on Workers; [redacted] aws Yellow Dog Contract

Washington, Jan. 30.—The Senate Committee on the Judiciary made a favorable report on the Norris anti-injunction bill.

The bill follows the broad lines of the measure favored by the minority of the Committee during the last Congress. It does not agree in every respect with the bill approved by the 1931 convention of the American Federation of Labor. An effort will be made to bring it into alignment with the A. F. of L. bill by amendments when the Senate takes it up for consideration.

The Committee on the Judiciary consists of 17 members. Eleven favored the bill, five opposed it, and one member (Stephens) did not vote.

Those voting for the bill were: Chairman Norris and Senators Borah, Idaho; Robinson, Indiana; Blaine, Wisconsin; Schall, Minnesota; Ashurst, Arizona; Walsh, Montana; Dill, Washington; Bratton, New Mexico; Black, Alabama, and Neely, West Virginia.

Those opposed were: Waterman, Colorado; Hastings, Delaware; Hebert, Rhode Island; Austin, Vermont, and King, Utah.

Ends Judicial Dictatorship

The Norris bill is intended to be a practical and effective medium to correct the abuse of injunctions in labor disputes, which have become notoriously oppressive to Labor.

It is believed [redacted] will definitely end the judicial [redacted] hip exercised by Federal Judge [redacted] injunctions prohibiting the w [redacted] om organizing in trade unions [redacted] rying on the work for which [redacted] ions are established.

Secures Lab [redacted] f Rights

Under its pro [redacted] abor will secure for itself t [redacted] of the right of free speech, [redacted] free assemblage, the right t [redacted], the right to engage in collect [redacted] ning.

The bill provi [redacted] al by jury in contempt cases [redacted] ring in court. It also permits [redacted] nt in a contempt case, who [redacted] with an attack upon a ju [redacted] newspapers or outside of the [redacted] m, to demand trial by another [redacted]

The bill also [redacted] the equity courts from gi [redacted] s and legal standing to "ye [redacted] ontracts.

Organized W [redacted] Helpless

The bill declare [redacted] nder prevailing economic co [redacted] veloped with the aid of gove [redacted] authority for owners of property to organize in the corporate and other forms of ownership association, the individual unorganized worker is commonly helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect his freedom of labor, and thereby to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment."

Freedom of Association

Because of these conditions, the bill continues, it is necessary for the worker to have "full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives or in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

Injunctions Against Public Policy

The committee report says that on many occasions Federal judges have issued injunctions depriving the workers of these rights, and that the bill declares such injunctions to be contrary to the public policy of the United States and prohibits judges from issuing them.

It is not anticipated that the Senate will delay consideration of the injunction bill. When enacted by Congress it will relieve Labor of a form of judge-imposed slavery which stands as an ever present menace against the legal activities of the workers in attempts to secure their rights.

3,300,000 Children Out of School, 2,500,000 Competing for Work

Washington, Jan. 30.—[illegible] years of age were [illegible] the idea that '14 is too early' for children to go to work, that the difficult years of adolescence should not be further burdened by the physical strain of employment.

[illegible]

"Yet the 1930 census shows for the 18 States and the District of Columbia for which figures are available, a total of 172,528 children 14 and 15 years of age at work, a decrease of 22 per cent, as compared with 1920 figures. The number of employed children between 16 and 17 years of age was 131,222, or 5 per cent less than in 1920. The children between 10 and 14 years of age in these States (75,849), who, of course, should not be at work at all, have, it is true, decreased 47 per cent."

2,500,000 at Work or Job Hunting

Summing up the figures, Mrs. Beyer finds that 800,000 children from 7 to 13 and 2,500,000 between 14 and 17 were out of school during the school year.

In answering the question, What are these children between 14 and 17 substituting for school during these most impressionable and difficult years, Mrs. Beyer says:

"Undoubtedly the vast majority are working or hunting for work or they are wasting their time, at best, in unprofitable idleness, at worst, in taking the first steps toward delinquency and crime.

Keep Children in School

"Here is an opportunity, if we but have the courage to grasp it, to wrest from a national calamity a national good—to free for unemployed adults the jobs these boys and girls are leaving school to take, and give to a very large group of adolescents, who will be the young men and women of a few years hence, training that will fit them for more desirable jobs, more satisfactory living, and for better citizenship.

"This means not only keeping the children in school but giving them worth while training and educational and vocational guidance that will fit them into fields of usefulness where their services will be in demand when better days come."

Leave School to Support Family

[illegible]

Employers Turn Children Into Profit

[illegible]

COURT PROHIBITS HAND LABOR JOBLESS RELIEF

Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 30.—The Utah Supreme Court prohibited the municipal council of Salt Lake City from constructing a $600,000 storm sewer on a minimum wage, hand-labor basis. The city decided to use hand labor instead of machinery as a method of unemployment relief instead of supporting the unemployed by charity.

The Supreme Court held that inasmuch as the minimum wage and hand labor resulted in a substantial increase in the cost of the sewer project it was in effect a form of charity and therefore a violation of a section of the State Constitution which specifies that money appropriated for one purpose cannot be diverted to another purpose.

A number of municipalities in the United States have used hand labor in preference to machine labor in construction projects to provide more work for the jobless.

CONGRESS ORDERS PROBE OF SIX-HOUR DAY PLAN FOR RAILROAD EMPLOYES

Washington, Jan. 30.—Congress passed the resolution authorizing the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the possibility and practicability of establishing the six-hour day for the employes in the railroad industry.

The resolution was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Couzens of Michigan and in the House of Representatives by Representative Crosser of Ohio.

Under the resolution the Commission is directed "to investigate what would be the effect upon operation, service and expenses of applying the six-hour day in the employment of all classes and each particular class of railroad employes because of such application."

The six-hour day is advocated by railroad trade unions as a measure to relieve unemployment caused by the revolutionary application of labor-displacing machinery to railroad work supplemented by the cumulative effects of the business depression.

WAGE CUTS DO NOT HELP JOBLESS, GREEN SAYS

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 30.—The theory advanced by certain reactionary employers, and their satellites among journalists and economists, that wage cuts will reduce unemployment was emphatically challenged by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America here.

Mr. Green was secretary-treasurer of the Mine Workers from 1913 to 1924, when he became president of the A. F. of L. after the death of Samuel Gompers.

"No group representing Labor," Mr. Green said, "can meet without considering the present economic conditions now aggravated by widespread unemployment. During this period of stress no group has suffered as much as the United Mine Workers."

"If wage reductions are a remedy for unemployment," he continued, "then the mining industry ought to be the most prosperous in the world. It is an object lesson of an unsound economic policy which brings a lower standard of living."

He urged a wage scale that would raise the standard of living of the miners and provide a profit for coal operators.

FREMMING URGES 5-DAY WEEK FOR IDLE RELIEF

Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 30.—Harvey C. Fremming, director of Los Angeles County Employment Stabilization, urged employers to adopt the 6-hour day or the 5-day week to create more work opportunities for the unemployed. In a letter sent to employers, Mr. Fremming said:

"Many of the firms in Los Angeles county are operating upon this shorter work day and work week basis, and most satisfactory results are obtained. Because of their efforts in this direction thousands of workers are now employed who otherwise would be without gainful employment, adding greatly to our now distressed economic condition."

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETS IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Jan. 30.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor meets here on February 2 in the A. F. of L. Headquarters.

The Executive Council consists of eleven members as follows:

President, William Green, member of the United Mine Workers of America; secretary, Frank Morrison, member of the International Typographical Union; treasurer, Martin F. Ryan, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America; first vice president, Frank Duffy, secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; second vice president, T. A. Rickert, president of the United Garment Workers of America; third vice president, Matthew Woll, first vice president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America; fourth vice president, James Wilson, president of the Pattern Makers' League of North America; fifth vice president, John Coefield, president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada; sixth vice president, Arthur O. Wharton, president of the International Association of Machinists; seventh vice president, Joseph N. Weber, president of the American Federation of Musicians; eighth vice president, G. M. Bugniazet, secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America.

On February 9 the presidents of the national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. will meet with the Council to consider Labor's action in the unemployment crisis as well as the anti-injunction bill, now before the United States Senate, and other labor measures.